

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 47


14p



THE ANDROMEDA INCIDENT



STARBLANKET

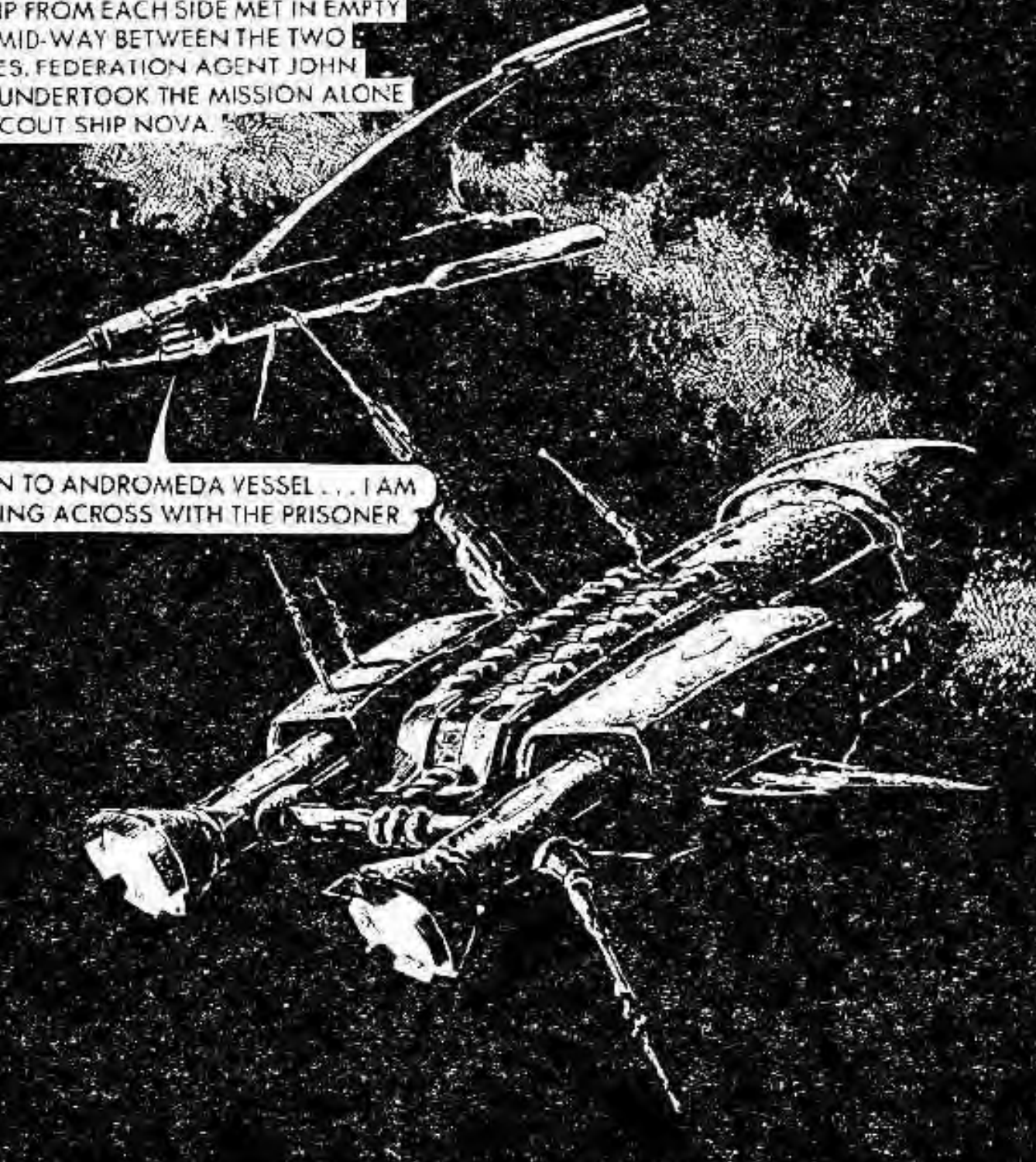


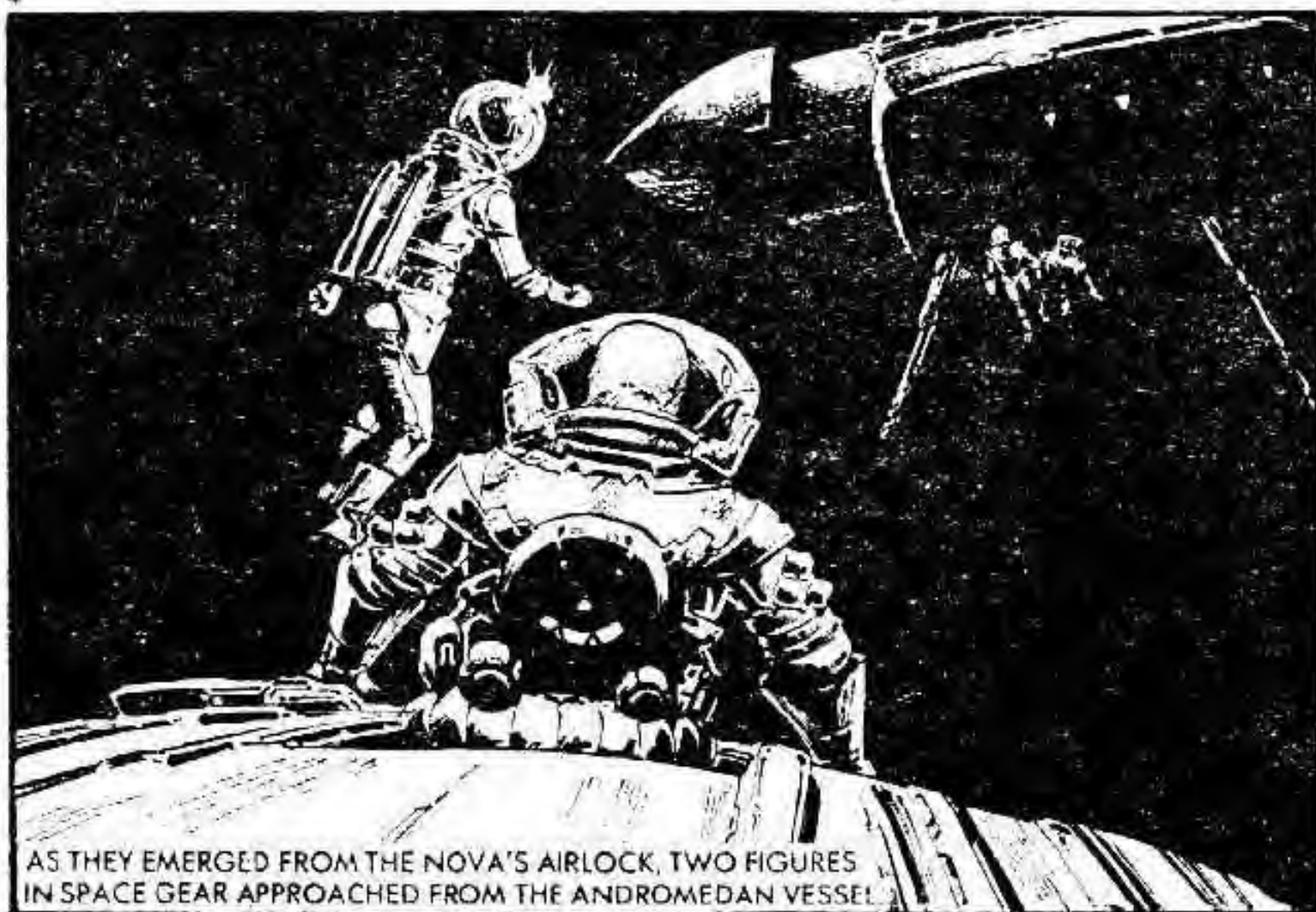
THE FIRST INTERGALACTIC WAR BETWEEN THE EARTH FEDERATION AND THE ANDROMEDAN EMPIRE ENDED IN AN UNEASY TRUCE. IN THE LAST MONTHS OF THE WAR THE NOTED EARTH SCIENTIST PROFESSOR BEN HERSCHEL INVENTED THE 'HERSCHEL SHIELD' ARRAY OF ELECTROMAGNETIC FORCE FIELDS. AN ANDROMEDAN RAIDING FORCE CAPTURED HERSCHEL'S SPACESHIP AND HE WAS MADE A PRISONER OF THE EMPIRE. THE ANDROMEDAN SUPREME COMMANDER, ALGIS, WHO HAD BEEN CAPTURED WAS TO BE EXCHANGED FOR HERSCHEL.

THE ANDROMEDA INCIDENT

ONE SHIP FROM EACH SIDE MET IN EMPTY SPACE, MID-WAY BETWEEN THE TWO GALAXIES. FEDERATION AGENT JOHN QUINN UNDERTOOK THE MISSION ALONE IN HIS SCOUT SHIP NOVA.

QUINN TO ANDROMEDA VESSEL . . . I AM COMING ACROSS WITH THE PRISONER





AS THEY EMERGED FROM THE NOVA'S AIRLOCK, TWO FIGURES
IN SPACE GEAR APPROACHED FROM THE ANDROMEDAN VESSEL.

THE TWO SIDES FACED EACH OTHER.



GO ON ALGIS, GET MOVING. I CAN'T
SAY IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE MEETING
YOU.

AS SOON AS HERSCHEL REACHED HIM, QUINN WASTED NO TIME IN HEADING BACK TO NOVA.

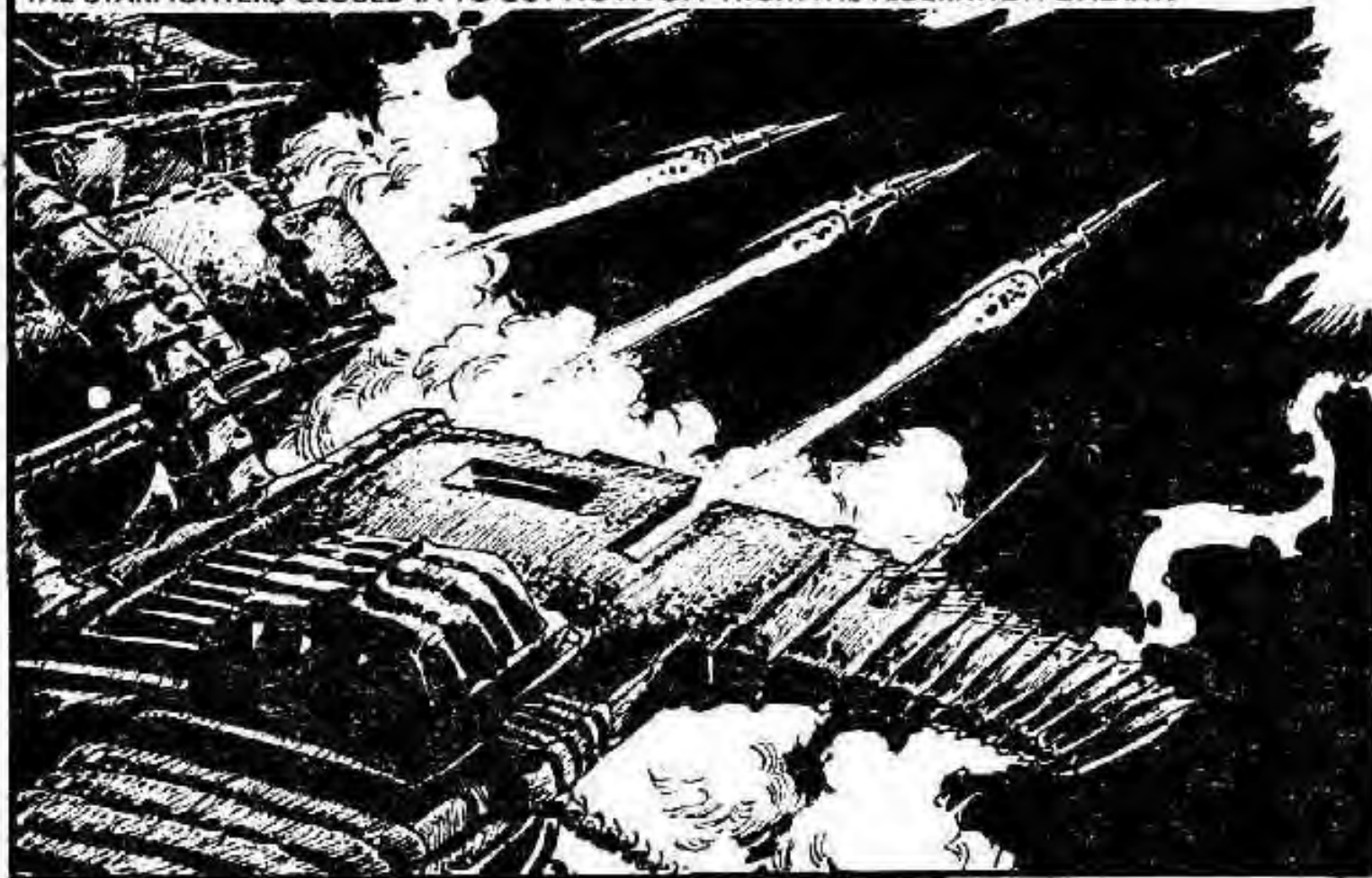


A MIGHTY ANDROMEDAN WARSHIP APPEARED FROM NOWHERE





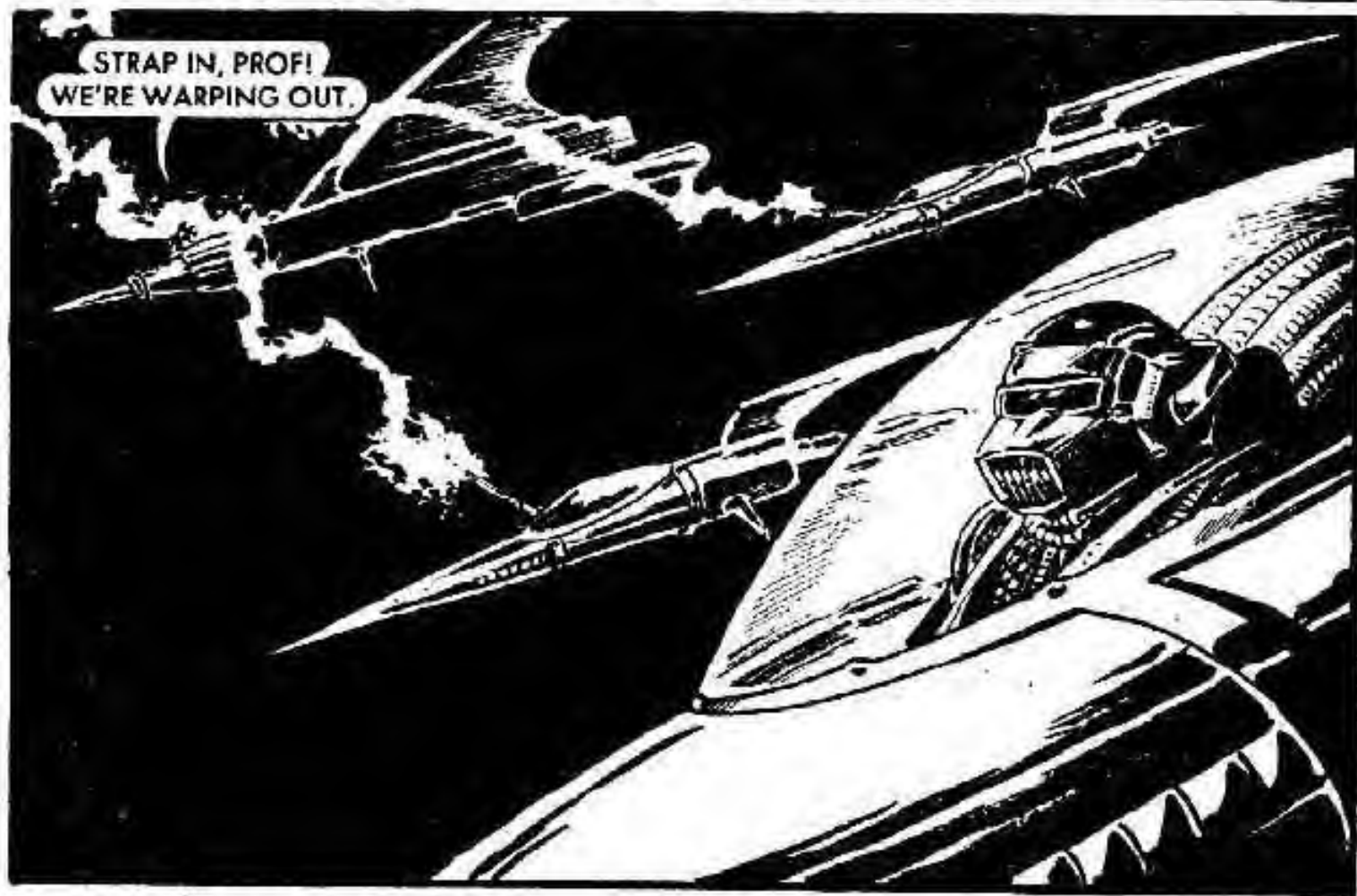
THE STARFIGHTERS CLOSED IN TO CUT NOVA OFF FROM THE FEDERATION GALAXY.





IT'S NO GOOD! THE PHOTON
CANNON ARE NEUTRALISED. THE
WARSHIP MUST BE GENERATING
ONE OF YOUR SHIELDS, HERSCHEL.

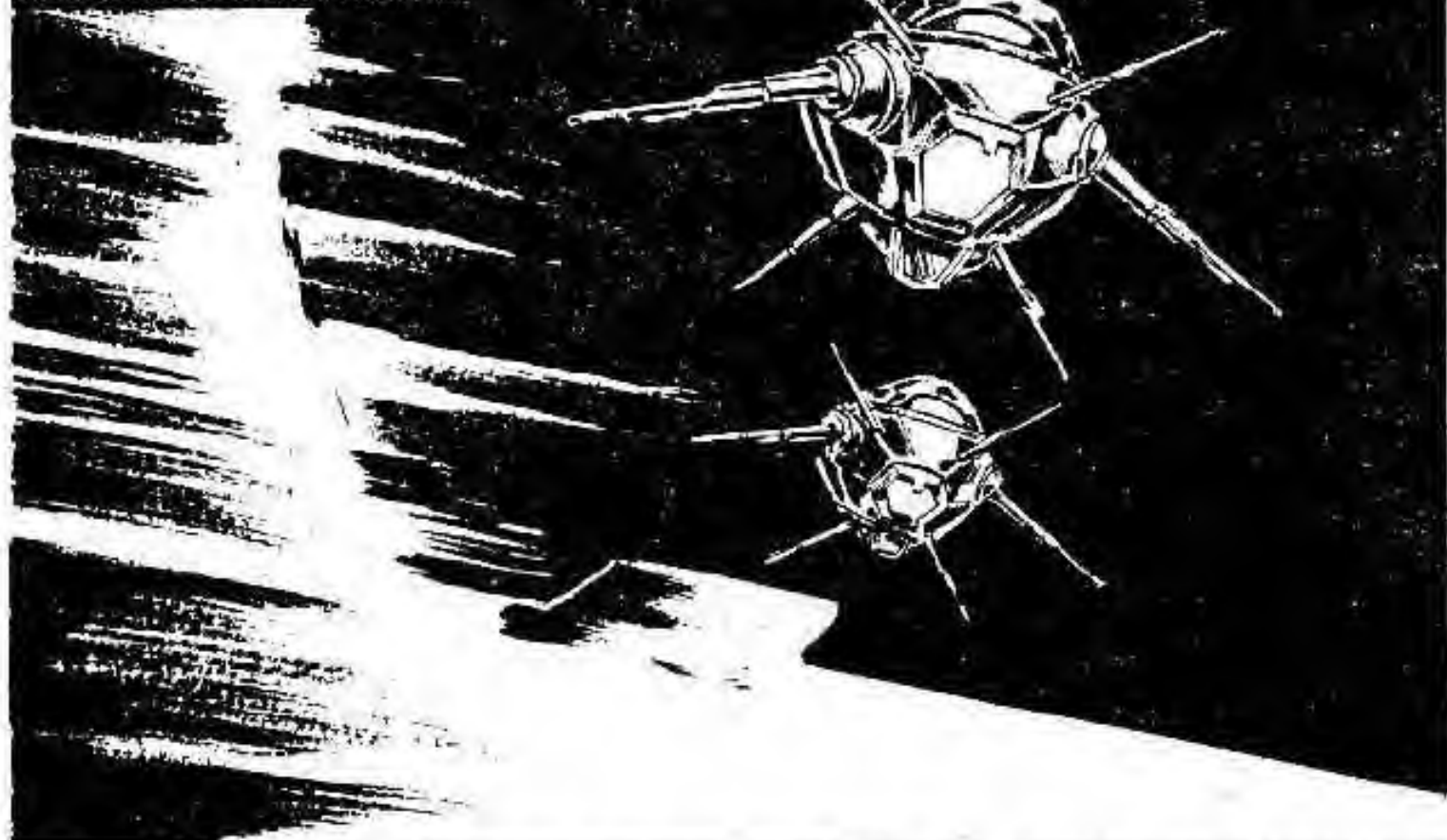
STRAP IN, PROF!
WE'RE WARPING OUT.



WE'VE GOT THE EDGE ON
THE WARSHIP FOR
ACCELERATION. IF WE
CAN KEEP OFF THE STAR-
FIGHTERS FOR LONG
ENOUGH, WE MAY BE ABLE
TO LOSE THEM IN THAT
STAR CLUSTER AHEAD.



8
QUINN LAUNCHED TWO OF THE SHIP'S ROVERS—
REMOTE ORDNANCE VEHICLE ELIMINATION
ROBOTS—DESIGNED TO SEEK OUT ALIEN CRAFT
AND ENGAGE THEM IN BATTLE.



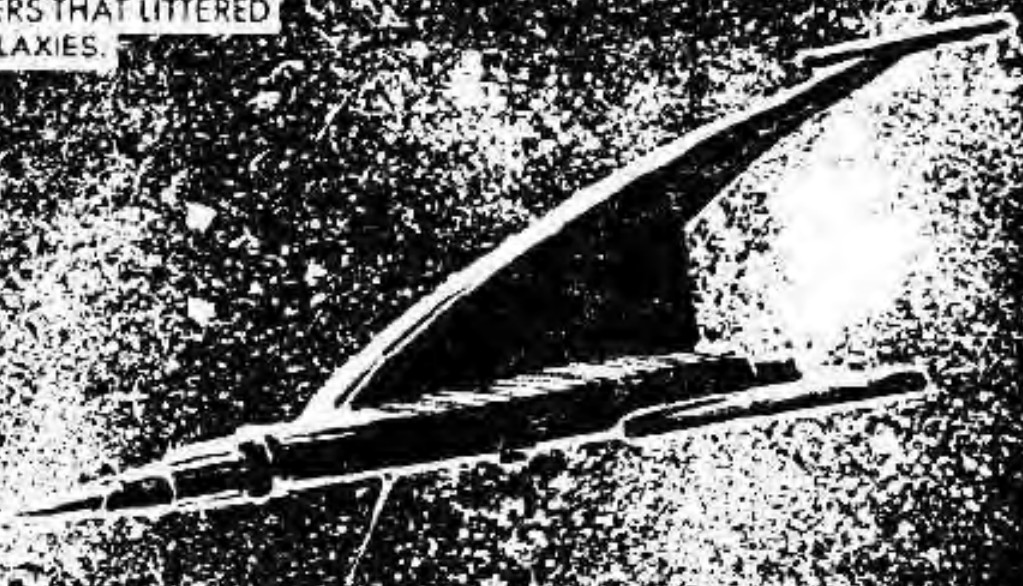
ALTHOUGH THE ROVERS' CANNON WERE NEUTRALISED, THEY SET OUT ON COLLISION COURSES.



THE SECOND ROVER'S BLOWN UP...
JUST ONE STARFIGHTER REMAINING.


I CAN LOSE HIM
IN THE STAR CLUSTER.

THE NOVA PLUNGED INTO NGC403—ONE OF THE
INNUMERABLE STAR CLUSTERS THAT LITTERED
EMPTY SPACE BETWEEN GALAXIES.



WHAT'S WRONG?

I'M NOT SURE... WE'RE LOSING
CONTROL... THE SHIP IS CAUGHT
IN SOME KIND OF IMMENSE GRAVITY
FIELD...



THERE MUST BE A BLACK HOLE AT THE CENTRE OF THE STAR CLUSTER . . . AND WE'RE BEING PULLED RIGHT INTO IT!

THE STARFIGHTER HAS CAUGHT US UP.

THE SHIP IS STILL NOT RESPONDING!

AS QUINN FOUGHT TO OVERCOME THE DEADLY PULL OF THE BLACK HOLE, THE STARFIGHTER OPENED FIRE.

WE'RE HIT! I'LL HAVE TO USE THE LAST ROVER.



ENGINE'S DEAD.
WE'RE IN A SPIN.

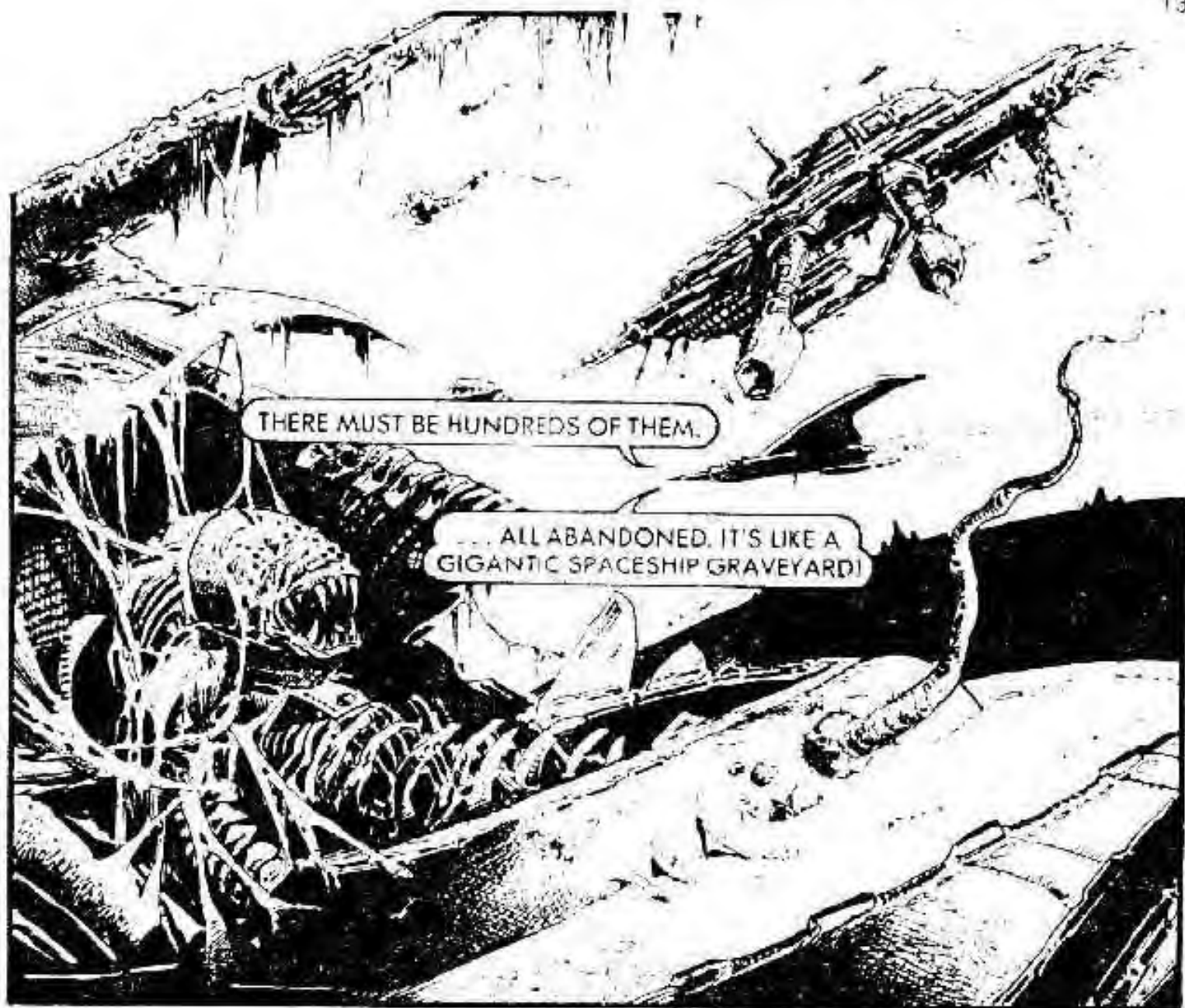
THE NOVA DRIFTED TOWARDS THE CENTRE OF THE CLUSTER.



LOOK OUT THERE...



IT'S INCREDIBLE... A SKY FULL
OF DERELICT ALIEN SPACECRAFT!



THERE MUST BE HUNDREDS OF THEM.

... ALL ABANDONED. IT'S LIKE A
GIGANTIC SPACESHIP GRAVEYARD!



THAT'S STRANGE—THE GRAVITY
FIELD IS LOSING ITS STRENGTH AS
WE GET NEARER THE CENTRE OF THE
STAR CLUSTER.

AN EXTINGUISHED BLACK HOLE! IT MUST HAVE
COLLAPSED LONG AGO, LEAVING THIS
STRANGE GRAVITY WHIRLPOOL. OVER THE
CENTURIES IT HAS CAPTURED ALL THOSE
ALIEN CRAFT AS THEY TRIED TO PASS
THROUGH THE STAR CLUSTER.

AS THE NOVA DRIFTED IN AMONGST THE ALIEN SHIPS, QUINN AND HERSHEY PREPARED TO LEAVE THE SHIP.

WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM THE SHIP BEFORE THE ANDROMEDANS TURN UP. GO AHEAD, I'LL JOIN YOU IN A MOMENT.



NOW WHAT?

COME AND GIVE ME A HAND WITH THIS, WILL YOU?



WHAT IS IT?

PERSONAL BATTLE ROBOT — CODE-NAME MOBCOM. IT'S A MOBILE FIGHTING COMPUTER AND VERY POWERFUL. WITH ONLY MY HANDGUN BETWEEN US, WE'RE GOING TO NEED HIM IF THE ANDROMEDANS CATCH UP WITH US.

QUINN PULLED THE ROBOT FREE OF THE SHIP AND ACTIVATED THE POWER PACK.

THE ANDROMEDAN WARSHIP HAD REACHED THE EDGE OF THE STAR CLUSTER.

WE CAN GO NO FARTHER, COMMANDER ALGIS,
OR WE WILL BE TORN APART IN THE GRAVITY
FIELD.

SEND IN STAR TROOPS!
I WANT QUINN CAPTURED!

A DERELICT SPACECRAFT CARRIER— WE MAY BE
SAFE INSIDE THERE FOR A WHILE. IT WILL TAKE
THE ANDROMEDANS WEEKS TO SEARCH ALL
THESE CRAFT.



AS THEY LANDED, A SUDDEN EXPLOSION BLOSSOMED.

WHAT WAS THAT?

THE ANDROMEDANS HAVE FOUND
THE NOVA. I BOOBY-TRAPPED HER
NUCLEAR PILE. THE ENTIRE SHIP BLEW
UP WHEN THEY BOARDED HER.



THEY PASSED THROUGH THE AIRLOCK INTO THE CRUISER'S CONTROL ROOM.

THERE'S A BREATHABLE ATMOSPHERE.
THE SHIP'S POWER PLANT MUST BE
INTACT.




QUINN BEGAN TO SEARCH FOR A WAY DOWN INTO THE REST OF THE SHIP.

THERE MUST BE A HATCH BEHIND
ALL THIS JUNK SOMEWHERE.

WHAT ARE THESE BUTTONS FOR?



DON'T TOUCH... TOO LATE! THAT'S THE
LANDING BEAMS. THE ANDROMEDANS WILL SEE
THEM!



THAT'S THEM DE-ACTIVATED.

ALGIS HAD SEEN THE LANDING BEAMS.

COMMANDER, WE HAVE
PICKED UP LANDING SIGNALS
OF SOME KIND FROM THE
CLUSTER.

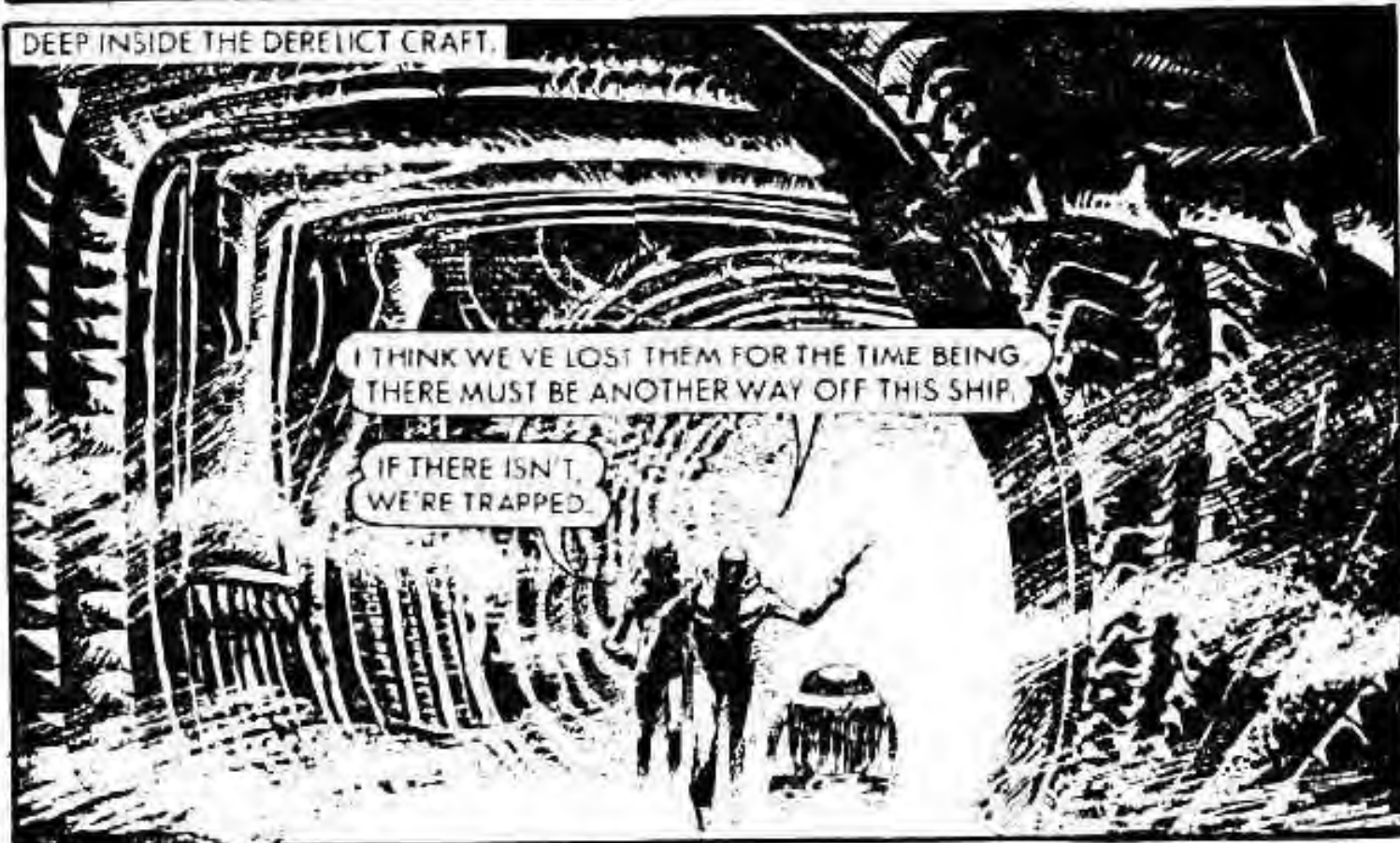
SEND IN YOUR MEN.

THERE ISN'T TIME TO GET CLEAR.
COME ON, WE'LL HAVE TO TRY AND
HIDE INSIDE THE SHIP.



THEY'VE GONE DOWN INTO THE SHIP— GET AFTER THEM! DIRECT NUMBER TWO SQUAD TO BREAK INTO THIS HULK FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

DEEP INSIDE THE DERELICT CRAFT.



I THINK WE'VE LOST THEM FOR THE TIME BEING. THERE MUST BE ANOTHER WAY OFF THIS SHIP.

IF THERE ISN'T, WE'RE TRAPPED.

BUT IT WAS THE ANDROMEDANS WHO HAD FOUND ANOTHER WAY IN.



IN HERE, QUICK.
COVER US, MOBCOM.



AS SOON AS THEY WERE THROUGH THE HATCHWAY, QUINN JAMMED THE LOCK MECHANISM.

THAT SHOULD KEEP THEM OUT FOR
A WHILE.

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

THAT LOOKS LIKE A CONTROL
PANEL OF SOME KIND.


IT SEEMS TO BE SOME SORT OF
SHORT RANGE TRANSMITTER. IT'S
ALREADY LOCKED ONTO
SOMETHING... WHAT?



SECONDS LATER, THEY FOUND THEMSELVES IN A DIFFERENT ROOM.



QUINN ACTIVATED ONE OF THE WALL SCREENS AND TURNED TO HERSHEY IN DISBELIEF.



WE'RE NOT JUST IN ANOTHER ROOM,
PROF... WE'VE JUMPED CLEAR
ACROSS SPACE TO THE OTHER SIDE
OF THE CLUSTER!

IT'S A PARTICLE TRANSMITTER! IT
MUST HAVE BEEN USED TO
TRANSMIT CREW AND MATERIALS
BETWEEN SHIPS.



YOU MEAN WE'RE ON ANOTHER SHIP
LIKE THE FIRST—BUILT BY THE SAME
ALIEN RACE?

YES! THEY WERE TRAPPED IN THE
GRAVITY FIELD.

QUINN TURNED OFF THE POWER TO PREVENT THE
ANDROMEDANS FOLLOWING THEM THROUGH
THE TRANSMITTER, THEN THEY WENT IN
SEARCH OF THE SHIP'S CONTROL TOWER.

LOOK OUT THERE. A SHUTTLE CRAFT OF
SOME KIND OUT ON THE LANDING PAD.



WAIT HERE WHILE I CHECK OUT THOSE
SHUTTLES. IF ONE OF THEM WORKS,
WE COULD TRY TO GET CLEAR OF HERE.

AS SOON AS HE GOT OUTSIDE, QUINN OPENED UP HIS PRIVATE RADIO LINK TO MOBCOM.

CODE HYDRA, MOBCOM.
WATCH OUT FOR TROUBLE.

AFFIRMATIVE.



IN THE ANDROMEDAN WARSHIP.

MY TROOPS REPORT THAT THE
EARTHMAN CANNOT BE FOUND.
THEY ARE NO LONGER ABOARD THE
ALIEN CRUISER.

TELL YOUR TROOPS TO CONTINUE
THE SEARCH. WE MUST WAIT FOR
ANOTHER SIGNAL.



QUINN DID NOT TAKE LONG TO CHECK OUT THE SHUTTLECRAFT.

THE DRIVE CELLS ARE ALL EXHAUSTED, PROF, IS THERE ANY WAY WE CAN RECHARGE THEM?

MOBCOM HERE. HERSCHEL HAS JUST ATTEMPTED TO SET OFF THE LANDING SIGNALS AGAIN. I HAVE DESTROYED THE CONTROLS, HE ...

THERE WILL NO LONGER BE ANY NEED, QUINN—YOU ARE TOO LATE ...

QUINN RAN BACK TO THE CONTROL TOWER AND LET HIMSELF INTO THE AIRLOCK.



MOBCOM'S POWER-PACK HAS BEEN
BLASTED... BUT HOW?



LIKE THIS, EARTHMAN!



A CHEST BLASTER... YOU'RE AN ANDROID!

YES, SUBSTITUTED BY THE
ANDROMEDANS TO
ACCOMPANY YOU BACK TO
EARTH.



DID YOU REALLY THINK WE WOULD
EVER RETURN THE REAL HERSCHEL? WE
HAVE THE SECRET OF THE
NEUTRALISING SHIELD, AND I WAS TO
ACCOMPANY YOU TO EARTH IN ORDER
TO DESTROY YOUR SHIELD.



WHERE IS THE REAL HERSCHEL?

STILL ABOARD THE WARSHIP. YOU WILL BE
TAKEN THERE AND AN ANDROID COPY WILL
BE MADE OF YOU. THEN WE SHALL GO TO
EARTH... AND FINISH YOU FOR GOOD.







QUINN HURLED HIMSELF FROM THE PLATFORM.



THE PARTICLE TRANSMITTER WENT INTO OVERLOAD
AND THE ANDROID WAS TORN APART IN ITS BEAM.



GONE... TRANSMITTED INTO PIECES
AND SCATTERED THROUGH SPACE.
NOW, BACK TO THE CONTROL
TOWER.




THE POWER PACK'S COMPLETELY
BURNT OUT... THERE MUST BE
SOMETHING I CAN USE ABOARD THIS
HULK TO FIX IT.




WHILST QUINN CARRIED OUT A SYSTEMATIC SEARCH OF THE ALIEN VESSEL, THE ANDROMEDAN TROOPS WERE DRAWING CLOSER.





THIS LOOKS LIKE THE COMMUNICATIONS
CENTRE. I WONDER ...



A SUB-SPACE
TRANSMITTER! STILL WORKING,
TOO ... LET'S SEE IF I CAN FIGURE
OUT HOW TO RECORD A
MESSAGE.

QUINN FED HIS MESSAGE INTO
THE DIGITAL MEMORY BANK.

NOW IT SHOULD CONTINUE
TO BROADCAST ON AUTOMATIC.

QUINN CONTINUED SEARCHING.



NOW THIS COULD BE VERY USEFUL... AND THAT LOOKS LIKE AN ENERGY CELL OF SOME SORT.

THAT SHOULD DO IT.

ALL FUNCTIONS NOW OPERATIVE.

QUINN SPENT AN HOUR WIRING UP THE ROBOT'S POWER PACK.

I'VE NO IDEA WHERE HERSHEL IS BEING HELD, SO THE QUICKEST WAY TO LOCATE HIM IS TO GET CAPTURED AND HOPE THEY LOCK ME UP WITH HIM. WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO...





SUPREME COMMANDER ...
SQUAD NINE REPORTS THAT THE
EARTHMAN HAS BEEN SIGHTED.
THEY ARE GIVING CHASE.

I WANT QUINN
TAKEN ALIVE.



ONE DOWN ... BUT IT CAN'T BE LONG
NOW.






QUINN WAS CARRIED TO THE ANDROMEDAN WARSHIP




WHEN HE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS HE FOUND HIMSELF IN THE CONTROL CENTRE

SO WE MEET ONCE MORE, QUINN.
ONLY THIS TIME OUR ROLES ARE
REVERSED.

HOW EXTREMELY UNPLEASANT
TO SEE YOU AGAIN, ALGIS.




YOU WILL LEARN TO CURB YOUR TONGUE, EARTHMAN. NOW, WHERE IS HERSCHEL AND THAT AMUSING LITTLE ROBOT OF YOURS?

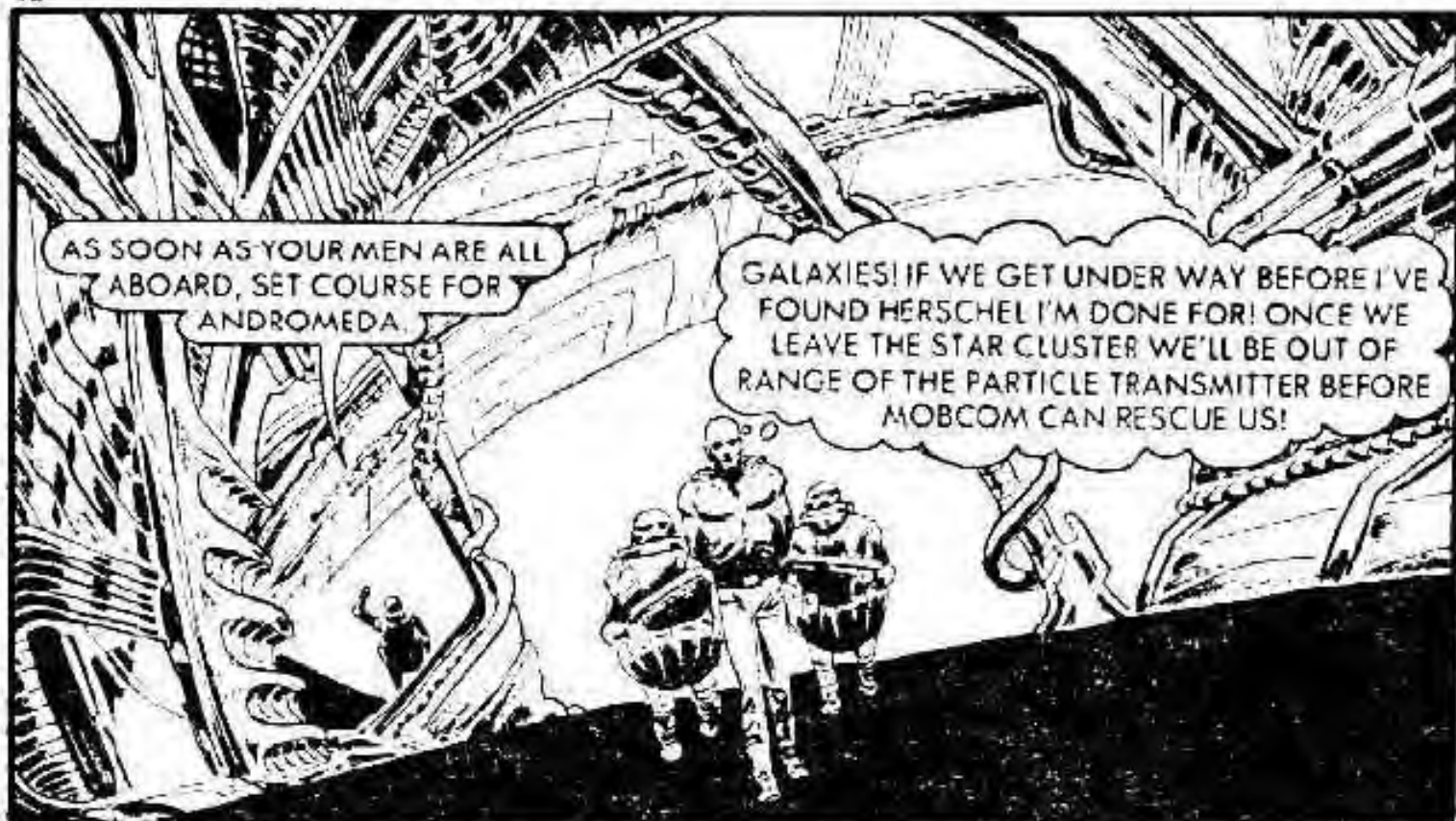


THAT AMUSING LITTLE ROBOT AS YOU CALL IT IS DESTROYED, AND SO IS HERSCHEL... IF IT IS YOUR AMUSING LITTLE ANDROID YOU ARE REFERRING TO.

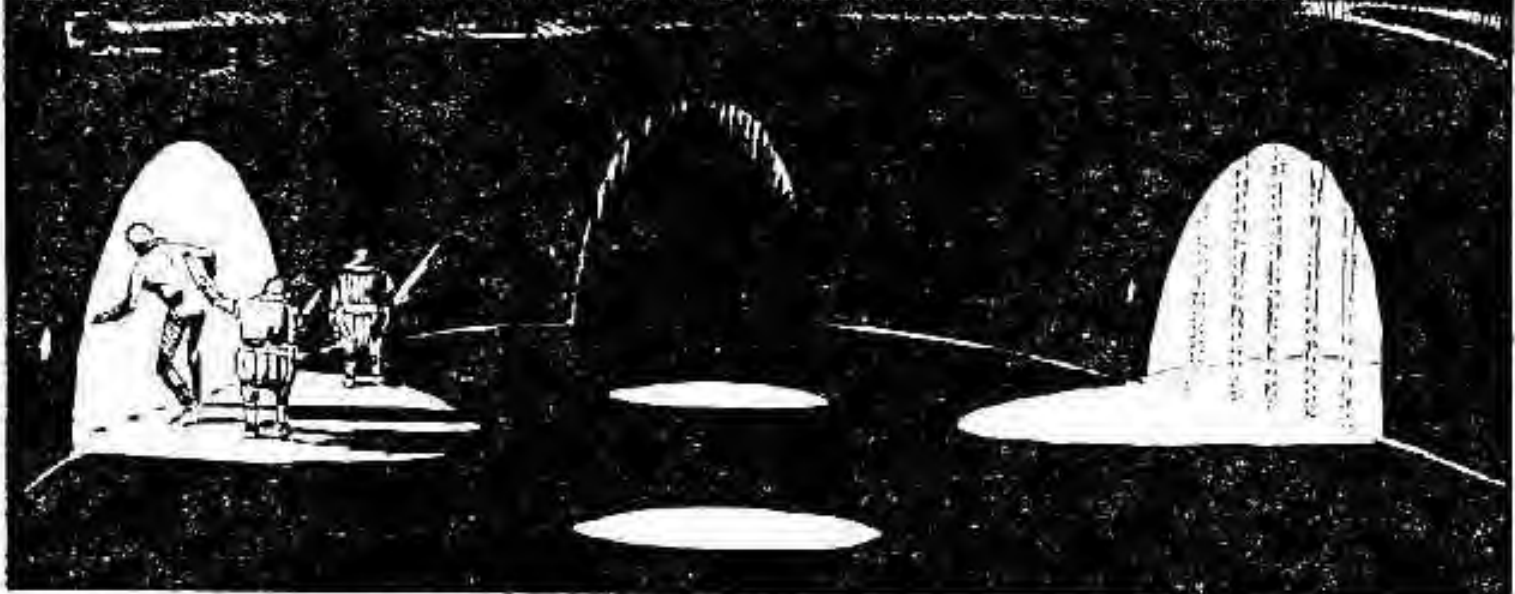
WHERE'S THE REAL HERSCHEL, YOU MURDERER?



YOU WILL DIE VERY SLOWLY FOR THAT, EARTHMAN. TAKE HIM AWAY.



QUINN WAS TAKEN TO A SECURITY DECK AND THROWN INTO ONE OF THE CELLS.



ONE OF THE GUARDS SWITCHED ON A CONTROL ON THE WALL AND THE CELL DOORWAY LIT UP.



QUINN WAITED UNTIL THE GUARDS HAD GONE, THEN THREW HIMSELF AT THE DOORWAY . . .


VERY EFFECTIVE.

HELLO THERE. CAN YOU HEAR ME?

BEN HERSCHEL! IT'S
JOHN QUINN HERE. THE
FEDERATION SENT ME
TO EXCHANGE YOU FOR
ALGIS.

I SAW THE DOUBLE CROSS TAKE PLACE. I
WAS BEING FORCED TO WORK ON THE
NEW NEUTRALISING SHIELD AT THE TIME.
THEY DRAGGED ME OFF IT BEFORE I COULD
SABOTAGE IT TO HELP YOU.


QUINN TOOK A SMALL PENCIL TRANSMITTER FROM HIS SPACE BOOT.



WHAT DO YOU RECKON
IS GOING TO HAPPEN NOW?


THEY'LL TAKE US
BACK TO THEIR GALAXY.

AND THEY'LL MAKE ANDROID
DUPLICATES OF US BOTH. DON'T
WORRY, WE'RE NOT BEATEN YET.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

QUINN SWITCHED ON HIS MINIATURE TRANSMITTER.



QUINN TO MOBCOM. QUINN TO
MOBCOM, ARE YOU RECEIVING ME?

IN THE ALIEN CRUISER, MOBCOM RECEIVED THE TRANSMISSION ON HIS BUILT-IN RADIO.

AFFIRMATIVE. I
AM RECEIVING YOU.

GOOD. LOCK ONTO
MY TRANSMISSION.



QUINN FELT THE DECK TREMBLE SLIGHTLY.

WHAT WAS THAT?

THE ENGINES—WE MUST
BE GETTING UNDERWAY.

QUICK MOBCOM! LOCK ONTO
MY SIGNAL AND TRANSMIT
YOURSELF ABOARD BEFORE
WE GET OUT OF RANGE!

ACKNOWLEDGED

IN THE ALIEN CRUISER, MOBCOM BEGAN TO DEMATERIALISE.



I'LL EXPLAIN LATER. GET AWAY FROM THE DOORWAY, MOBCOM
WILL BLAST THE SECURITY LOCK.



IMMEDIATELY AN ALARM WENT OFF ON THE CONTROL DECK

SUPREME COMMANDER,
SOMETHING HAS DESTROYED
ONE OF THE FORCE FIELDS ON
THE SECURITY DECK.

QUINN IS TRYING TO ESCAPE!
ALERT ALL GUARDS.

LOOK OUT!








THEY ARE ON THE HANGAR
DECK. LOCK ALL OUTER DOORS!

MAKE FOR THE NEAREST STAR-
FIGHTER—AND PRAY THAT IT'S
FUELLED UP AND READY FOR TAKE
OFF!




MOBCOM, BURN THE DOORS!



BUT I CAN'T LEAVE THE
NEUTRALISING SHIELD—
IT'S THE ONLY
PROTOTYPE.

UNDER THE FULL POWER OF MOBCOM'S BLASTER
A JAGGED HOLE APPEARED IN THE OUTER DOORS
AND THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE HANGAR BEGAN
TO RUSH OUT INTO SPACE.

WE MUST GET IN THERE
BEFORE THE WHOLE DECK
DEPRESSURISES!



QUINN, HERSCHEL AND MOBCOM
CLIMBED INTO THE STARFIGHTER AS
THE ANDROMEDAN TROOPS WERE
SUCKED INTO THE VACUUM OF
SPACE.

HANG ON, THIS IS
GOING TO BE ROUGH!!

THE STARFIGHTER LIFTED AND SHOT OUT INTO SPACE.

WE MADE IT!







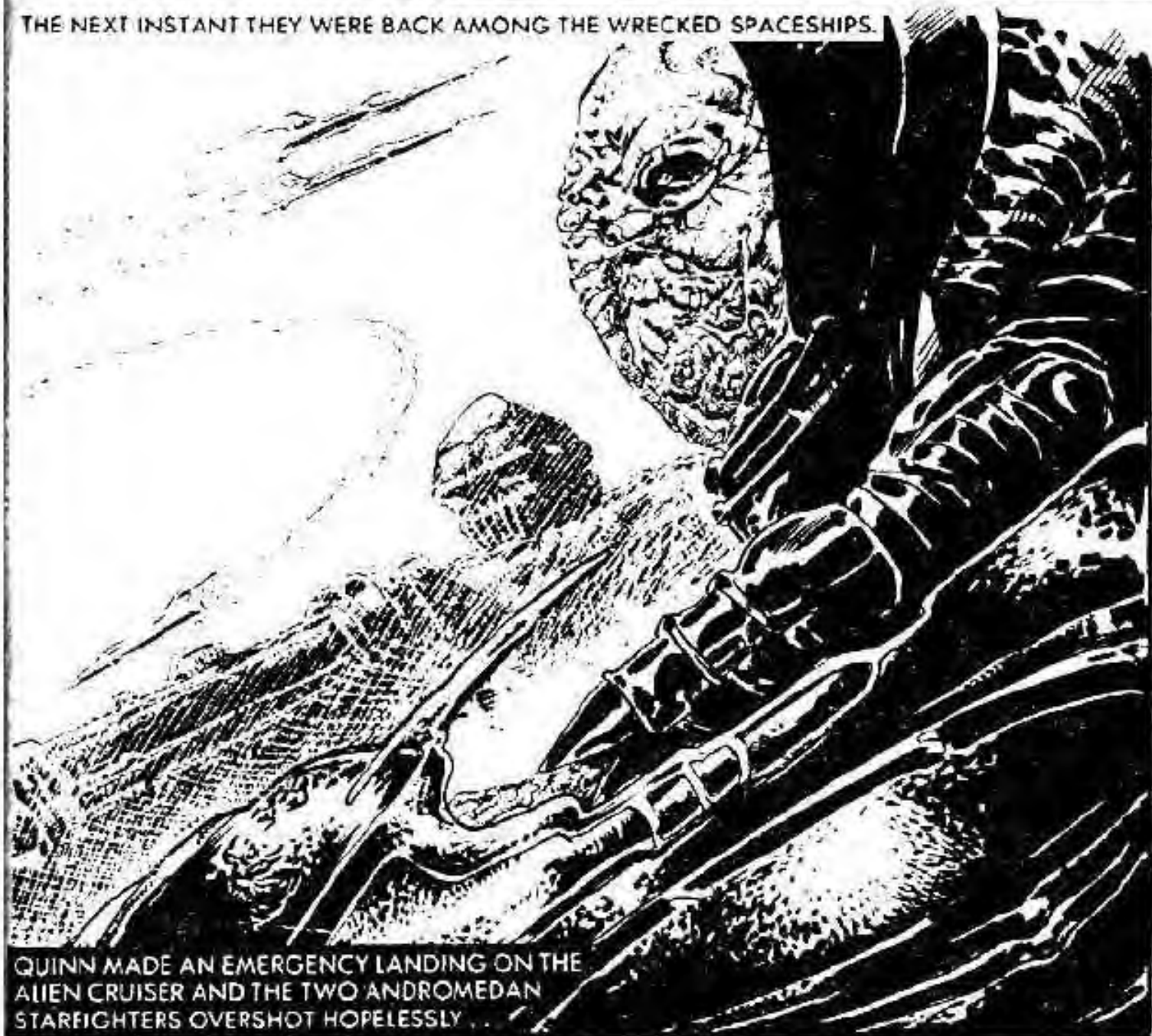
THE STARFIGHTERS SCREAMED INTO THE STAR CLUSTER.




ONE DOWN!

HOLD THEM OFF JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER, WE'RE NEARLY THERE!

THE NEXT INSTANT THEY WERE BACK AMONG THE WRECKED SPACESHIPS.



QUINN MADE AN EMERGENCY LANDING ON THE ALIEN CRUISER AND THE TWO ANDROMEDAN STARFIGHTERS OVSOSHOT HOPELESSLY.



EVERYBODY OUT BEFORE THOSE
TWO GOONS COME BACK.

HERSCHEL HAD
STRUGGLED INTO AN
ILL-FITTING
ANDROMEDAN
SPACE SUIT.

MOBCOM'S BEEN HIT!

LEAVE THE ROBOT ...


NO, I NEED HIM.

MOBCOM WAS DRAGGED TO SAFETY.

WE'RE SAFE FOR THE MOMENT, UNTIL
THEY START TO SEND IN TROOPS AGAIN.



AT THAT MOMENT ABOARD THE ANDROMEDAN WARSHIP.



COMMANDER, OUR
SENSORS HAVE PICKED UP
TWO APPROACHING
FEDERATION BATTLESHIPS.

PREPARE TO ENGAGE IN BATTLE
ACTIVATE THE NEUTRALISING SHIELD.



HE TOOK THEM DOWN TO THE STORE ROOM HE HAD FOUND EARLIER.

WHAT IS IT?

IT'S A THERMONUCLEAR WARHEAD
OF SOME KIND. HELP ME LIFT IT,
MOBCOM.

IN SPACE, A DEADLY BATTLE WAS IN PROGRESS.

THE ANDROMEDAN'S FIRST ATTACK
DESTROYED ONE OF THE FEDERATION
BATTLESHIPS. FINDING ITS WEAPONS
NEUTRALISED, THE OTHER TOOK EVASIVE ACTION.

BACK IN THE CRUISER, QUINN AND MOBCOM HAD CARRIED THE WARHEAD TO THE PARTICLE TRANSMITTER.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

I'M GOING TO USE THE PARTICLE TRANSMITTER TO PLACE THIS WARHEAD INSIDE THE ANDROMEDAN SHIP. ACTIVATE THAT VIDEOSCREEN, WILL YOU?

IF THE WARHEAD EXPLODES INSIDE THE WARSHIP, THE NEUTRALISING SHIELD SHOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON IT...

QUINN SET THE CONTROLS AND JUMPED DOWN FROM THE PLATFORM.

THE WARHEAD DEMATERIALISED.



AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT, ABOARD THE ANDROMEDAN SHIP.

THE FEDERATION BATTLESHIP
IS IN RANGE AGAIN...

FIRE!



BUT THE WARHEAD MATERIALISED AND EXPLODED ABOARD THE ANDROMEDAN WARSHIP.



IT WORKED! THERE SHE GOES...


INCREDIBLE! THIS DEVICE COULD BE
OF IMMENSE VALUE TO THE
FEDERATION.

QUINN ALTERED THE CONTROLS OF THE VIDEOSCREEN AND ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH
THE FEDERATION BATTLESHIP.

GOOD TO SEE YOU ALIVE. WE
THOUGHT WE'D LOST YOU.

I'VE GOT HERSHEL HERE WITH ME.
WE'RE COMING OVER. PREPARE THE
BRIDGE TO RECEIVE US.





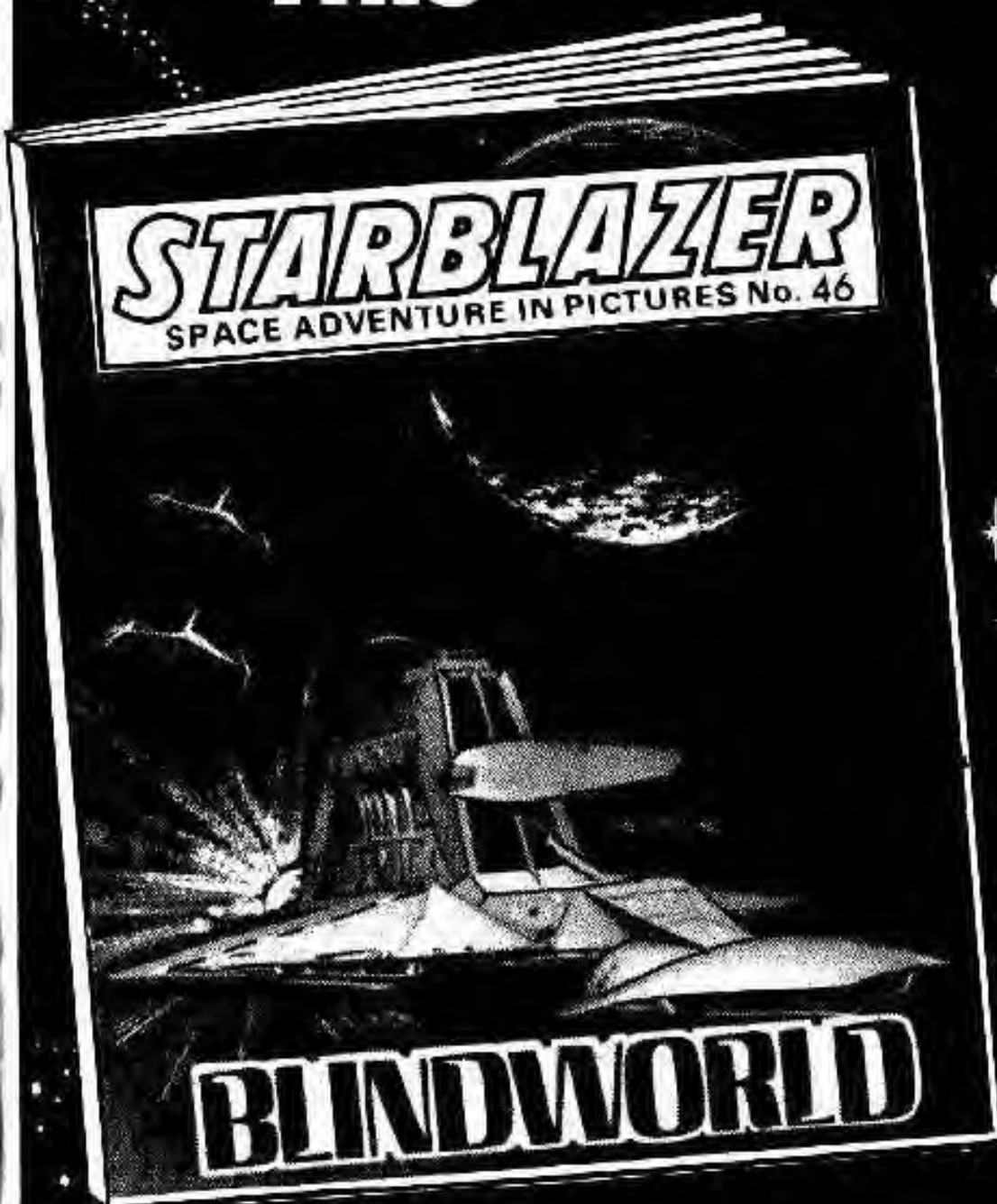
THE BRIDGE . . . BUT HOW?

YOU'LL SEE IN A FEW
SECONDS. QUINN OUT.

QUINN TOOK WITH HIM, NOT ONLY THE KNOWLEDGE OF HERSCHEL'S PROTOTYPE SHIELD, BUT ALSO THE SECRET OF THE ALIEN PARTICLE TRANSMITTER, A DEVICE THAT WOULD TIP THE SCALES OF WAR IN THE FAVOUR OF THE FEDERATION AND END THE THREAT OF THE ANDROMEDAN EMPIRE FOR GOOD.



**NOW THAT YOU'VE READ
THIS**



**DON'T
FORGET
THAT
THERE'S
ANOTHER
ONE THIS
MONTH**

**IT'S ON SALE IN
YOUR NEWSAGENT'S NOW!**



STARBLAZERS

IN THE CONQUEST OF SPACE 47

In August 1977 Voyagers I and II were launched on a trajectory to Jupiter and Saturn. Spectacular photos of Jupiter were obtained in 1979 and Saturn will be visited in 1981. In 1986 Voyager II will make the first visit to Uranus.